



File Code: 1950
Date: February 21, 2020

Dear Interested Party,

The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests (GMUG), Gunnison Ranger District, has released an Environmental Assessment (EA) and my draft Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact (DN/FONSI) for the Taylor Park Vegetation Management Project.

I have selected Alternative 2 as described in the EA in my draft Decision for landscape scale vegetation treatments surrounding Taylor Park. This project includes a detailed adaptive management strategy developed in coordination with interested publics and agencies. Specific anticipated treatments encompass approximately 17,700 acres of various treatments to improve forest health using commercial harvest, non-commercial, and prescribed fire treatments to:

- Protect young, healthy stands of lodgepole pine from impacts due to insects and disease;
- Thin young stands of lodgepole pine to increase or maintain growth rate and improve resiliency;
- Reduce fuels in wildland-urban interface and surrounding areas;
- Provide wood products for the local economy;
- Reintroduce fire into fire dependent ecosystems while also treating acres unsuitable for mechanical fuel or forest health treatments;
- Remove hazard trees along open public roads.

Alternative 2 also includes approximately 30,000 acres of "Contingency Treatment Areas" overlapping the anticipated treatments which would allow for preemptive treatments in response to insect outbreaks and/or salvage treatments if mortality events (e.g., infestations, wildfire, or windthrow) occur within the planning area.

Additional information is included in the EA and my draft DN/FONSI available on-line at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53662>. These documents are also available for review at the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests, Gunnison Ranger District, 216 N. Colorado St., Gunnison, CO 81230. Additional information can be obtained from: Pamela King, NEPA Planner, at 970-642-4436 or pamela.r.king@usda.gov.

The Taylor Park Vegetation Management EA and draft DN/FONSI are subject to the objection process pursuant to 36 CFR 218, subparts A and C.

How to file an Objection and Timeframe

Objections will only be accepted from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project during scoping or other designated opportunity for public comment in accordance with §218.5(a). Issues raised in objections must be based on



previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunities.

Objections, including attachments, must be filed via mail, fax, email, hand-delivery, express delivery, or messenger service (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays) to:

Reviewing Officer
U.S.D.A. Forest Service
Rocky Mountain Region
1617 Cole Blvd. Building 17
Golden, CO 80401

Fax: (303) 275-5134

Email: SM.FS.r02admin-rev@usda.gov

(Acceptable formats for electronic objections are: rtf, pdf, doc, or docx)

Objections must be submitted within 30 calendar days following the publication of a legal notice in the *Gunnison County Times*, scheduled for February 27, 2020. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the time to file an objection.

The objection must contain the minimum content requirements specified in §218.8(d) and incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in §218.8(b). It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer pursuant to §218.9. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

At a minimum an objection must include the following (36 CFR 218.8(d)):

1. The objector's name and address, with a telephone number, if available;
2. a signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for Email may be filed with the objection);
3. when multiple names are listed on an objection, identification of the lead objector (verification of the identity of the lead objector shall be provided upon request);
4. the name of the proposed project, the name and title of the Responsible Official, and the name(s) of the National Forest(s) and/or Ranger District(s) on which the proposed project will be implemented;
 - a. For this project: Taylor Park Vegetation Management, Matthew McCombs, GMUG/Gunnison RD
5. a description of those aspects of the proposed project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed project if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider; and

6. a statement that demonstrates connection between prior specific written comments on the particular proposed project or activity and the content of the objection.

For additional information about the Taylor Park EA and draft DN/FONSI please contact Pamela King, NEPA Planner, at 970-642-4436 or pamela.r.king@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt. McCombs", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MATTHEW M. MCCOMBS
District Ranger